

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 TRSE-00 /068 W
-----022553 122058Z /70

R 121545Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7148
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PROS, PINT, EG
SUBJECT: TAKFIR ARRESTS CONTINUE

REF: CAIRO 11464

SUMMARY: NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS SINCE SHUKRI'S ARREST HAVE
BECOME INCREASINGLY SPECULATIVE AND NON-AUTHORITATIVE
ON TAKFIR AFFAIR. GOV'T EFFORTS TO PLAY INCIDENT IN
LOW KEY APPEAR TO BE HAVING OPPOSITE MEDIA EFFECT,
WITH PRESS IN SOME CASES CLEARLY MANUFACTURING "NEWS".
WIDESPREAD ARRESTS CONTINUE. END SUMMARY

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1. ARREST OF SUSPECTED TAKFIR MEMBERS CONTINUE THROUGH-
OUT EGYPT. MOST SIGNIFICANT, IF TRUE, IS AKHBAR'S JULY 12
CLAIM THAT GROUP OF MILITARY OFFICERS AND NCO'S APPREHENDED.
NO NUMBERS GIVEN. OTHERS ARRESTED INCLUDE EMPLOYEES STATE
ORGANIZATIONS, PROFESSIONALS, AND INDIVIDUAL IDENTIFIED
AS WORKING IN PRESIDENCY. ROSE AL-YUSEF, SAME DAY, CLAIMED
TAKFIR CONTROLLED RELIGIOUS SOCIETIES IN VARIOUS FACULTIES AT

CAIRO, AIN SHAMS, ALEXANDRIA, MANSOURA AND ASSIUT UNIVERSITIES.

2. WE HAVE BEEN STRUCK BY NEWSPAPER EFFORTS IN RECENT DAYS TO TIE TAKFIR TO MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD (IKHWAN) AND/OR LIBYA. ACCORDING TO JULY 11 AL-AHRAM, SHUKRI'S SECOND IN COMMAND, ABDEL SALEM MUSTAFA, ALSO FORMER IKHWANI WHO DEFECTED FROM BROTHERHOOD WHILE IN PRISON. MUSTAFA AND SHUKRI ARE ALLEGED TO HAVE SPENT TIME IN PRISON RECRUITING TAKFIR MEMBERS FROM AMONG IKHWAN'S SECRET (TERRORIST) ORGANIZATION. AHRAM CONCLUDES BY QUOTING SHUKRI'S HOME VILLAGERS AS BLAMING WHOLE INCIDENT ON BROTHERHOOD, WHICH HAS POISONED MINDS OF YOUTH.

3. PAPERS ALSO HAVE BEGUN TO HINT AT LIBYAN CONNECTION. JULY 10 OCTOBER MAGAZINE CLAIMED DHAHABI KILLER MUSTAFA ABDEL MAQSUD GHAZY WAS RECRUITED WHILE IN LIBYA AS LABORER. ROSE AL-YUSEF'S MANAGING EDITOR HYPOTHESIZED THAT MANNER IN WHICH MURDER CARRIED OUT SIMILAR TO TERRORIST ACTIVITIES OF CARLOS (WHO "RESIDING IN NEIGHBORING ARAB COUNTRY") AND CALLED UPON AUTHORITIES TO INVESTIGATE POSSIBLE CONNECTION.

4. FIRST QUASI-OFFICIAL IKHWAN COMMENT APPEARED IN SIGNED GUMHURIYYA ARTICLE BY OMAR AL-TELMASANI (BOARD CHAIRMAN OF IKHWAN'S MOUTHPIECE AL-DAWA) ALSO ON JULY 9. TEL-MASANI PIOUSLY REJECTED ABDUCTION AND KILLING AS SOLUTION, DESPITE ACTIONS OF RULER WHO MAY BE FOLLOWING INCORRECT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PATH. KIDNAPPING OF DHAHABI WAS "AGAINST RELIGION". THRUST OF HIS ARTICLE IS, HOWEVER, THAT EGYPTIAN YOUTHS (JUSTIFIABLY) ARE DISSATISFIED WITH SOCIETY BECAUSE OF ITS "DEPARTURE FROM TEACHINGS OF GOD." SOCIETY HAS REACHED BOTTOM AND GOVERNMENT MUST TAKE STAND.

5. ARTICLE SAME DAY IN AKHBAR AL-YOM, WRITTEN BY MUHAMED ABDEL QUDDUS (RELATIVE OF WELL-KNOWN IKHWANI) QUOTES TAKFIR LEADERS AS DENYING GROUP WAS, AT ANY TIME, EXTENSION OF MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD. QUDDUS STATES GROUP'S AIM WAS TO CONVERT ENTIRE WORLD TO ISLAM--BY FORCE, IF NECESSARY.

6. COMMENT: TALMASANI'S LUKEWARM EDITORIAL AND QUDDUS ARTICLE FALL SHORT OF DEFINITELY SEPARATING IKHWAN FROM TAKFIR. PAPERS ACCEPT, AS GIVEN FACT THAT TAKFIR LEADERSHIP, AT LEAST, WAS AT ONE TIME ASSOCIATED WITH BROTHERHOOD. CLAIM THAT INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED DEFECTED FROM BROTHERHOOD WILL NOT BE OVERLY COMFORTING TO AN EGYPTIAN PUBLIC WHICH WELL RECALLS THAT, DURING ITS HEYDAY, IKHWAN MAINTAINED DISCRETE, OVERT AND CLANDESTINE BRANCHES.

7. FACT THAT ARRESTS HAVE CONTINUED ON BROAD
SCALE, IN WIDELY SEPARATED PARTS OF COUNTRY, BELIES GOE
EFFORTS DOWNPLAY SOCIETY'S SIGNIFICANCE. THIS ALSO UNDER-
SCORED BY FACT THAT DETAINED MEMBERS WHO HAVE BEEN
IDENTIFIED (ADMITTEDLY A MINORITY OF ARRESTED) HAVE
COME SOLIDLY FROM RANKS OF EGYPT'S EDUCATED ELITE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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